

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4972

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, OVIP (APPLEGATE, JOHN F.), RO

SUBJ: VISIT OF ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL APPLEGATE: PARCEL
POST AND MONEY ORDER AGREEMENTS; COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

REF: STATE 204613

1. ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL APPLEGATE MET WITH MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MOTT) 20 AUGUST. DRAFTS
OF ACCORDS ON PARCEL POST AND ON POSTAL MONEY ORDERS WERE DISCUSSED,
AS WELL AS ROMANIAN DESIRE FOR U.S. STAMP CELEBRATING ROMANIAN
CENTENNIAL 1977.

2. ROMANIAN SIDE STILL ADAMANT ABOUT NOT ACCEPTING AMERICAN
WORDING RE PUERTO RICO, GUAM, ETC. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, THEY
SUGGESTED SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES: "BOTH CONTRACTING PARTIES
."WITHOUT NAMING U.S. AND ROMANIA SPECIFICALLY IN THAT
PARAGRAPH. APPLEGATE AGREED TO TAKE THIS SUGGESTION TO WASHINGTON.

3. ROMANIAN SIDE MADE STRONG PITCH RE CENTENNIAL STAMP TO PESSIMISTI
C
APPLEGATE WHO EXPLAINED THAT 35 COUNTRIES HAD ISSUED STAMPS FOR U.S.
BICENTENNIAL AND THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RECIPROCATATE IN EVERY
INSTANCE. GOR HOSTS ALSO APPEALED FOR US PARTICIPATION (ALONG
WITH USSR, FRANCE AND CHINA) IN CENTENNIAL STAMP EXHIBIT IN MAY.
APPLEGATE SAID THAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET 30 AUGUS
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AND THAT HE WOULD ATTEND MEETING. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SAY HE

WOULD RECOMMEND IN FAVOR OF ROMANIAN REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ASSURANCES GIVEN BY PARTY SECRETARY ANDREI DURING HIS RECENT U.S. VISIT, WE WERE SURPRISED THAT MOTT OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO RESIST REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO IN PARCEL POST AGREEMENT

WE PLAN TO RAISE THIS EVIDENT INCONSISTENCY WITH MFA AND WILL REPORT ROMANIAN RESPONSE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ASK DEPARTMENT TO INTERCEDE WITH POSTAL SERVICE AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO APPEAL FOR AGREEMENT TO ISSUE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP. WE UNDERSTAND POSTAL SERVICE'S RELUCTANCE TO APPEAR TO SET PRECEDENT BUT BELIEVE ROMANIAN CASE TO BE READILY DISTINGUISHABLE, IF NOT UNIQUE. ASSUREDLY, FEW, IF INDEED ANY, OF COUNTRIES ISSUING BICENTENNIAL STAMPS ARE CELEBRATING THEIR CENTENNIAL IN 1977. OBSERVANCE OF RECIPROCITY IN THIS INSTANCE WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR DEFENSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE.
VIETS

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